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OXC 3826
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28 AUG 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, OSA
SUBJECT: Personnel Authorizations

1. In the above request for increased personnel authorization for the Office of Special Activities is the requirement as presently seen in the Operations Division. This request has been given careful study and is designed to meet the operational concept for all of the programs as they are presently envisioned in this Division.

2. In the IDEALIST Branch we have asked for additional people because future commitments of this program seem to be on the increase rather than of a diminishing nature. As you well know the past year has produced more IDEALIST sorties than those of any previous year since the conception of the project yet these missions were supported by fewer people than ever before.

3. In the CORONA Branch the addition of the LANYARD program with the first mission forecast for late February, necessitated the request for additional people.

4. The OXCART program is the most serious of our requirements due to the fact that the OXCART Branch is grossly over-committed with urgent requirements which are far beyond the capacities of present staffing. Examples of urgent requirements which must be accomplished now are feasibility studies of operational concepts, development of a mission planning capability, development of command and control concepts, facilities, and procedures. These are but a few of the many complex and time-consuming tasks to be accomplished in the immediate future. At present, the OXCART Branch manning does not provide the Agency with a capability to plan, direct, and control operational missions. In short, unless emergency actions are taken at once we will not be in a posture to maintain operational control of OXCART.

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5. With our aim of converting the Control Center into a complete command post it will require the capability of manning 24 hours a day for extended periods. As the OXCART program becomes operational the requirement may exist for manning this duty position on a full 365 days a year basis. When this point in time is reached a request for additional manning for the Command Post will be forthcoming. In keeping with your desire to improve our operational briefings we have added two illustrators which is the minimum number acceptable to do the job. As the OXCART program becomes operational and the briefing requirements yet to be defined we may have to ask for additional people in this area.

6. While the Office of the Division Chief has not been increased appreciably it is felt that a modest increase must be granted to guarantee best managerial supervision of the Division.

7. The entire operational concept for the Office of Special Activities must be given review and final decisions should be reached that will determine the role the Agency is to play in clandestine reconnaissance operations and the degree of guidance of policy that NRO is going to establish for the national interest. Until this decision is reached a finite concept of operations and the personnel requirements cannot be made. Therefore, I strongly recommend and would be most appreciative of your efforts in obtaining approval for this request in view of the urgency of this situation.

SIGNED

[Redacted Signature Box]

Lt. Colonel USAF

Acting Chief, Operations Division, OSA

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cc: OSA/ADMIN

OSA/OD/[Redacted] (28 Aug 62)

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